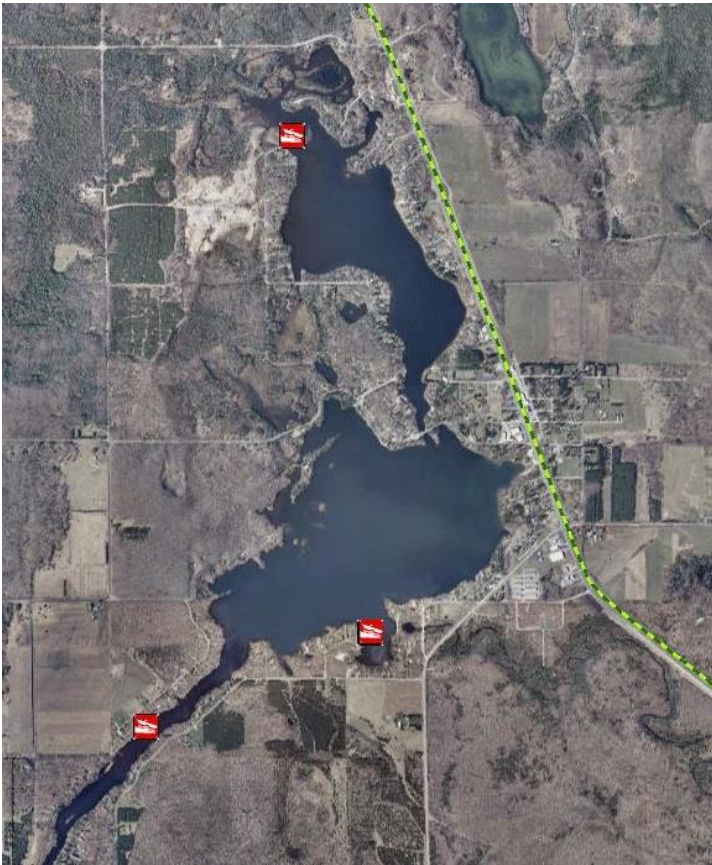


Townsend Flowage

Oconto County
2016 Fish Management Report

Cory Wienandt – Fisheries Technician
Christopher C. Long – Fisheries Biologist





Townsend Flowage – Oconto County,
Wisconsin
2016 Fish Management Report



Cory Wienandt, Fisheries Technician, Date

Christopher C. Long, Fisheries Biologist, Date

Michael Donofrio, Fisheries Supervisor, Date

David Boyarski, East District Fisheries Supervisor, Date

Summary

Lake and location:

Townsend Flowage, Oconto County, T33N R15E Sec 15

Physical / chemical attributes (Wisconsin DNR, 1977):

Surface acres:	476 acres
Maximum depth:	30 feet
Average depth:	9 feet
Shoreline length:	10.49 miles
Lake type:	Drainage
Water chemistry:	Slightly alkaline, hard water having neutral, light brown water of moderate transparency, Secchi disk = 8 ft. (summer).
Littoral substrate:	71% muck, 20% sand, 8% gravel, and 1% rubble.
Aquatic vegetation:	Moderate to dense.
Other features:	Townsend flowage is moderately developed. Shoreline area is primarily upland with vegetation consisting of mixed hardwoods and conifers. The remaining area is wetland composed of swamp conifers including cedar, black spruce along with other low land species.

Purpose of survey:

Determine the current status of fishery.

Surveys:

Spring fyke netting survey (SNI):	April 19 th through April 23 rd
Electrofishing survey (SEI):	May 9 th
Electrofishing survey (SEII):	May 24 th
Electrofishing survey (fall recruitment):	September 6 th

Fishery:

The fishery of Townsend Flowage is comprised of panfish species (bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and rock bass) and gamefish species (walleye, largemouth bass, northern pike, and muskellunge).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Townsend Flowage is in northern Oconto County. The flowage is 476 acres and consists of 2 distinct basins. There are three public boat landings (Figure 11). All public landings are owned and maintained by the town of Townsend.
- A 6-foot drawdown was conducted over the winter of 2012-2013 with the objective of reducing the abundance of Eurasian water milfoil. The drawdown did not appear to have any negative impacts to fish populations in the flowage.
- A total of 2,411 fish were collected (including recaptures) representing 12 species during the 2016 survey (Table 5). The five most abundant species collected by number were bluegill (33%), yellow bullhead (23%), yellow perch (13%), pumpkinseed (10%), and black crappie (6%).
- A total of 798 bluegill were collected (Table 5). The average length of bluegill was 5.3 inches with a range from 2.9 to 9.1 inches (Table 5). Bluegill were reaching 6 inches in total length in 5 to 6 years (Figure 1).
- During the survey, 143 black crappie were collected (Table 5). The average length was 5.9 inches with ranges from 4.6 to 13.0 inches. Crappie are reaching 8 inches in 7 to 8 years (Figure 6).
- A total of 123 northern pike was collected during the 2016 survey. The average length was 21.6 inches long with a range from 14.2 to 30.2 inches (Table 5). The catch rate during spring fyke netting was 2.4 per net night (Table 10).
- A total of 120 largemouth bass was collected during spring fyke netting (21) and electrofishing (99) (Table 10). The average length was 12.9 inches with a range from 7.5 to 19.0 inches. Bass were reaching 14 inches in 6 to 7 years (Figure 4).
- Overall, 10 walleyes were collected during spring fyke netting and electrofishing (Table 10). The average length was 21.4 inches with a range from 9.0 to 24.6 inches (Table 5). During the fall recruitment survey, no young of the year (YOY) walleye were observed.
- A total of 6 muskellunge was collected during spring netting and fall surveys (Table 10). The average length of fish captured was 21.0 inches with a range from 16.9 to 38.1 inches (Table 5).
- Largemouth bass catch rates have increased, and size structure has declined. Only 17% of fish sampled during spring electrofishing were greater than 15 inches (Table 6). At this time, no regulation changes are recommended for largemouth bass since PSD's fall in the range of a balanced population (Table 4).
- Walleye have been stocked into Townsend Flowage on and off for 50 years with little measurable success. The increased stocking rate of large fingerling of 14 fish/acre in 2014 and 2016 produced no fall YOY in 2014 and no fall YOY in 2016. In a subsequent survey in October 2017, 11 walleyes between 8.5 and 12.3 inches were collected and likely came from

these 2 stocking events. Even though these fish were not aged at the time of this report, due to their size, the age/growth history from other local waters, and the lack of natural reproduction due to limited spawning habitat, it's safe to assume these are from the 2014 and 2016 stocking events. Although catch rates were low it is important to note that the walleye stocked in 2014 and 2016 wouldn't have fully recruited to the adult population during the spring 2016 survey. It is recommended that the department closely monitor and evaluate the walleye stocking success in future surveys. If measurable success (catch per mile, survival, and growth) are not achieved it is recommended that walleye stocking be discontinued by the department. Townsend flowage is scheduled to be stocked with extended growth walleyes again in 2018.

- Muskellunge stocking was resumed in 2009 by WDNR at the rate of 1 fish/acre (400 fish annually) (Table 2). Townsend Flowage provides abundant habitat and forage to sustain an increase in large predators. The stocking rate of muskellunge should be increased to 2 fish/acre to further develop this fishery. Fish should also be marked/fin clipped to monitor natural reproduction and emigration from the flowage.
- The next comprehensive survey for Townsend Flowage is scheduled for 2024 and will focus on the age, growth, abundance, and recruitment of the dominant gamefish and panfish.

INTRODUCTION

Townsend Flowage is in northern Oconto County. The flowage is 476 acres and consists of 2 distinct basins. Two streams were dammed to form the flowage; McCaslin Brook and Mosquito Creek. There are three public boat landings (Figure 11). All public landings are owned and maintained by the town of Townsend.

A 6-foot drawdown was conducted over the winter of 2012-2013 with the objective of reducing the abundance of Eurasian water milfoil. Problems with overabundant aquatic vegetation have been reported from homeowners and anglers since the 1960's. In 2002, the Townsend Lake Association began removing aquatic vegetation with a mechanical harvester whereas chemical treatments had been used annually since the 1970's. In 2006 an aquatic plant assessment was conducted. The most abundant aquatic plant in 2006 was bushy pondweed (Naiad) which inhabits approximately 62% of the flowage. Common waterweed (Elodea) was found to inhabit approximately 57% of the flowage (Roost 2006). Eurasian water milfoil was not present in 2006 but is currently considered abundant and problematic. The current list of known aquatic invasive species in Townsend Flowage is: Aquatic forget-me-not banded mystery snail, Chinese mystery snail, curly-leaf pondweed, and Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM).

Stocking of both walleye and muskellunge have occurred on an irregular basis since the 1960's (Table 2). From 1998 to 2016 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) stocked approximately 80,000 small and large fingerling walleyes. From 2009 to 2016 over 2,600 large fingerling muskellunge have also been stocked by the WDNR.

Prior surveys on Townsend Flowage include electrofishing surveys in 1958, 1965, 1971, 1984, 2006, 2008, 2014, and 2015. Comprehensive surveys were completed in 1997 and 2016 (Table 3).

METHODS

Data collection:

Ten standard fyke nets (3x6 ft. frames, 3 ft. hoop, ¾ inch bar, 1.5-inch stretch) were set shortly after ice out on 04/18/2016 (Figure 11). Nets were lifted daily from April 19th to April 23rd, 2016 for a total effort of 50 net nights. All fish collected were measured to the nearest 0.1 inch. A representative sample of panfish were measured and the remainder counted to reduce stress and handling mortality. All gamefish were given a fin clip per treaty fishery sampling guidelines. Aging structures were collected from 5 fish per 0.5-inch group for gamefish species (walleye, largemouth bass, and muskellunge). Aging structures were collected from 5 panfish per 0.5-inch group per species (bluegill and black crappie).

A standard WDNR electrofishing boat was used to sample 6.0 miles on May 5th, 2016. All walleye collected were examined for clips and measured to the nearest 0.1 inch. On May 24th, 4.0 miles of shoreline were sampled. All panfish and gamefish were collected for two staggered 0.5 mile transects, and only gamefish were collected for the remaining shoreline per protocol (Spring Electrofishing II). On September 6th, 6.0 miles of shoreline were sampled targeting young of the year (YOY) walleye and muskellunge. Fish collected were identified and measured to the nearest 0.1 inch. Sampling gear, effort, date, and target species for each survey are listed in Table 3.

Data analysis:

Species composition, total catch, and catch per effort by gear type were calculated for all species (Tables 5-9). Ages were assigned to each fish using standard WDNR procedures. Age and length frequency distributions and mean length at age analysis were performed for gamefish and panfish where ageing structures were collected. Proportional stock density (PSD) and relative stock density of preferred length fish (RSDp) were calculated (Anderson and Neumann 1996; Bister et al. 2000). PSD is the ratio of 'quality-length' fish to 'stock-length' fish multiplied by 100. RSDp is the ration of 'preferred-length' fish to 'stock-length' fish multiplied by 100. Both PSD and RSD are commonly used as a measure of population size structure (Table 4). The Schumacher and/or modified Schnabel formulas were used to produce population estimates for largemouth bass, northern pike, and walleye. Age-frequency distribution was calculated after ages were distributed to all fish in the sample. Mean length at age for fish collected in 1997, 2008, and 2016 was plotted against northern Wisconsin averages for species where aging data was available.

RESULTS

Water temperatures for the spring netting survey ranged from 50-55 and 59-68 degrees Fahrenheit during the spring electrofishing 1 and spring electrofishing 2 surveys, respectively. A total of 2,411 fish were collected (including recaptures) representing 12 species during the 2016 survey (Table 5). The five most abundant species collected by number were bluegill (33%), yellow bullhead (23%), yellow perch (13%), pumpkinseed (10%), and black crappie (6%). Other species captured included northern pike, largemouth bass, rock bass, walleye, muskellunge, black bullhead, and white sucker.

Bluegill

A total of 798 bluegill were collected (Table 5). The catch rate was 9.1 per net night for spring fyke netting and 345.0 per mile for spring electrofishing (Table 10). The average length of bluegill was 5.3 inches with a range from 2.9 to 9.1 inches (Table 5). During spring electrofishing bluegill PSD was 14.5 and that value is just short of the acceptable range (20-60%) for a balanced population (Table 6). Bluegill RSD^p was 0 and below the desired range (5-20%) (Table 4). A

subsample of 41 bluegill was aged and ranged from 3 to 12 years old. Growth was similar to other bluegill populations in northern Wisconsin. Bluegill were reaching 6 inches in 5 to 6 years (Figure 1). Natural reproduction and recruitment are evident with multiple year classes present.

Yellow Perch

A total of 306 yellow perch were collected (Table 5). The catch rate was 5.9 per net night during spring fyke netting (Table 10). The average length was 5.8 inches with a range from 3.3 to 9.8 inches. Yellow Perch PSD was 2 and RSD^p was 0 (Table 5). Both PSD and RSD^p are well below the acceptable range for balanced fish populations (Table 4). The catch rate was 5.9 per net night and 10.0 per mile for spring netting and electrofishing respectively (Table 10). Yellow perch were not aged, but size structure is comparable to past surveys (Figure 8).

Black Crappie

During the survey, 143 black crappie were collected (Table 5). The catch rate for spring netting was 2.8 per net night. During spring electrofishing, the catch rate was 4.0 per mile (Table 10). The average length was 5.9 inches with ranges from 4.6 to 13.0 inches. Black crappie PSD was 36 and RSD^p was 11 (Table 5) for all gears combined. During spring electrofishing black crappie PSD was 33 and RSD^p was 33, although only 4 black crappie were captured during spring electrofishing (Table 6). A subsample of 61 black crappie was aged and ranged from 3 to 13 years old. Growth rates were below average when compared to other northern Wisconsin populations with most reaching 8 inches in 7 to 8 years (Figure 6). Successful reproduction and recruitment are evident with multiple year classes present.

Pumpkinseed

A total of 237 pumpkinseed sunfish were collected during spring netting and electrofishing surveys (Table 5). Catch rates were 2.3 per net night and 128.0 per mile of electrofishing, respectively (Table 10). The average length of pumpkinseed was 5.5 inches with a range from 3.4 to 7.9 inches. During spring electrofishing pumpkinseed PSD was 30 and RSD^p was 0 (Table 6). Pumpkinseeds were not aged, but length frequency suggests multiple year classes and successful reproduction and recruitment (Figure 9).

Rock Bass

A total of 120 rock bass were collected during both spring netting and electrofishing surveys. The average length was 7.1 inches with a length range from 3.5 to 9.6 inches (Table 5). The catch rate was 1.8 per net night for spring fyke netting and 32.0 per mile for spring electrofishing (Table 10).

Northern Pike

A total of 123 northern pike was collected during the 2016 survey. The average length was 21.6 inches long with a range from 14.2 to 30.2 inches (Table 5). The catch rate during spring fyke netting was 2.4 per net night (Table 10). PSD was 55 which is well within the acceptable range (Table 4 and 7). Recaptures were limited therefore, it was not possible to generate a population estimate. Aging samples were not taken for northern pike.

Largemouth Bass

A total of 120 largemouth bass was collected during spring fyke netting and electrofishing (Table 5). The catch rate for Largemouth Bass was 24.8 per mile during spring electrofishing and 0.4 per net night for fyke netting (Table 10). The average length during spring electrofishing was 12.9 inches with a range from 7.5 to 19.0 inches. Largemouth bass PSD for spring electrofishing was 59 and RSD^p was 17 (Table 6). Both PSD and RSD^p are within the acceptable range for balance fish populations (Table 4). A subsample of 77 bass was aged and ranged from 3 to 14 years old. Growth rates for largemouth bass are comparable to northern Wisconsin averages with most bass reaching 14 inches (minimum length limit) in 6 to 7 years (Figure 4). Natural reproduction and recruitment are apparent with multiple year classes present. Recaptures were limited therefore, it was not possible to generate a population estimate.

Walleye

Overall, 10 walleyes were collected during spring fyke netting and electrofishing (SE I and SE II) (Table 10). The catch rate was 0.2 per net night. No walleyes were captured during SE I surveys and only one walleye was captured during spring electrofishing (SE II). The average length was 21.4 inches with a range from 9.0 to 24.6 inches (Table 5). A subsample of 6 walleye were aged and ranged from 7 to 14 years old. During the fall recruitment survey, no young of the year (YOY) walleye were observed. Recaptures were limited therefore, it was not possible to generate a population estimate.

Muskellunge

A total of 6 muskellunge was collected during spring netting and fall surveys. The catch rates were 0.1 per net night for fyke netting and 0.3 per mile for spring and fall electrofishing (Table 10). The average length of fish captured was 21.0 inches with a range from 16.9 to 38.1 inches (Table 5). Fifty percent of muskellunge captured were over 35 inches and all fish sampled were below the 40-inch minimum length limit. A subsample of 3 fish was aged and ranged from 9 to 12 years old.

Yellow Bullhead

Yellow bullhead was the second most abundant fish sampled. A total of 547 yellow bullheads were collected during spring netting and electrofishing surveys. The average length of yellow bullheads was 10.0 inches with a length range from 7.2 to 12.7 inches (Table 5). The catch rate for yellow bullheads was 10.4 per net night and 26.0 per mile for spring netting and electrofishing, respectively (Table 10).

Other Species

Other species present included black bullhead (2), white sucker (1), and golden shiners (visually observed).

DISCUSSION

Multiple fisheries surveys have been conducted on Townsend Flowage over the years (Table 3). However, sampling protocols, equipment, and techniques have changed over time. Therefore, comparisons between previous survey data and the 2016 data were somewhat limited.

Townsend flowage supports a diverse panfish fishery. Catch rates for most panfish in 2016 have increased from the comprehensive survey in 1997 and electrofishing survey in 2008 (Table 6,8,9, and 10). Size structure has also improved, although only slightly, between 2008 and 2016 for bluegill (Figures 2, and 8). Bluegill PSD has increased from 5.6 (2008) to 14.5 (2016) (Table 6). Bluegill average length also increased slightly from spring electrofishing surveys in 2008. Bluegill growth for both 1997 and 2016 is considered average, or slightly below average, compared to other lakes in northern Wisconsin (Figure 1). The size structure for pumpkinseed, yellow perch, and rock bass have either decreased slightly or remained relatively unchanged (Table 5,6, and 7).

Black Crappie size structure and abundance increased between 1997 and 2016 (Tables 5, 8, and 10). Crappie PSD increased from 22 to 36 between the 1997 and 2016 surveys (Table 5). Growth for black crappie from 1997 to 2016 has not changed and is considered below average compared to other lakes in northern Wisconsin (Figure 6). Crappie are cyclic spawners meaning that successful reproduction and recruitment can be highly variable and unpredictable from year to year. The recent survey suggests that crappie reproduction and recruitment has been relatively stable (Figure 5). As a result, crappie fishing should be good for the next several years.

Largemouth bass catch rates increased in 2016. Spring and fall electrofishing results from 1997(fall), 2008(spring), and 2016(spring) increased from 10.6 per mile (1997) to 17.8 per mile (2008) to 24.8 per mile (2016) (Table 8, 9, and 10). Largemouth bass PSD's have decreased from 87.3 (2008) to 59.8 (2016) (Table 6). Along with a decrease in PSD's the percentage of largemouth captured over 14 inches during spring electrofishing surveys has also decreased from 64.8% in 2008 to 29.9% in 2016. Growth rates for 1997, 2008, and 2016 are almost identical and are considered below average compared to other lakes in northern Wisconsin (Figure 4).

Northern pike catch rates decreased since 1997. Catch rates during spring netting in 1997 were 4.7 per net and decreased to 2.4 per net in 2016 (Table 8 and 10). The reduced catch may be attributed to the ice out condition in 2016. There was a lot of open water in 2016 prior to the ice leaving the boat launches. This coupled with the fact that nets were placed several days after ice out may account for the reduced catch since northern pike prefer to spawn at temperatures of 34 to 40 degrees F. Temperatures on the first day of netting were close to 50 degrees F. Therefore, many northern pike may have already spawned and were less susceptible to capture during the survey. Northern pike PSD and average size increased from 1997 to 2016. More than 55 percent of northern pike captured during spring netting in 2016 were greater than 21 inches (Table 7). Only 18 percent of fish captured in 1997 were greater than 21 inches (Table 7).

Walleye have been irregularly stocked into Townsend Flowage since the 1960's with regularly stockings from 1994 to 2012 (Table 2). Survey results through the years (1965, 1971, 1984, 1997, 2006, 2008, 2014, 2015, and 2016) have produced a total of 25 walleyes captured, with 10 of those caught during the 2016 survey (Table 10). These past stockings did not produce a fishable walleye population.

Much like walleye, muskellunge have been stocked periodically since 1960 (Table 2). More than 17,000 muskellunge have been stocked into Townsend Flowage. Prior to 2008 no muskellunge were captured during any of the historical fisheries surveys, although the occasional fish was caught by anglers. One fish was captured in 2008 and six fish were captured in 2016 (Table 9 and 10). All but one fish was an adult.

Other species captured of noticeable interest were yellow and black bullheads. Abundance of bullheads increased from 0.5 fish per net in 1997 to 10.4 fish per net in 2016 (Table 8 and 10). Bullheads were second only to bluegills in total catch (Table 5).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Abundance increased for most panfish species in 2016 but size structure was generally poor or average when compared to northern Wisconsin lakes. This is likely a result of the dense aquatic vegetation which inhibits predator species such as bass and pike to effectively capture prey (i.e. panfish). The lake district maintains and operates a mechanical weed harvester and annually harvests approximately 30 acres of aquatic vegetation. Continued annual harvest is recommended with the possibility of expanding the current 30 acres however, flooded timber makes harvesting vegetation impossible in certain areas of the flowage. In 2012-2013 Townsend Flowage was drawn down to control Eurasian Water Milfoil and other aquatic vegetation. Survey data suggests the draw down had little or no negative impacts to fish populations in the flowage. Anecdotal angler reports suggest fishing was excellent for several years following the drawdown. The drawdown appears to have been effective at reducing the amount of EWM however, several areas of EWM were observed during the 2016 survey. Future drawdowns to control aquatic vegetation should be considered. Natural reproduction and recruitment for all panfish species was good and their populations are healthy and self-sustaining. No changes to panfish regulations are recommended (Table 1).

Largemouth bass abundance has increased steadily since 1997 and size structure has slowly declined over the same time period. Although size structure is currently below that of 2008 it is still considered above average with almost 30% of sampled fish greater than the 14-inch minimum size limit. At this time, no regulation changes are recommended for largemouth bass since size structure is still adequate and catch rates have increased.

Beginning in 2014 Townsend Flowage has been stocked with large fingerling walleye at an experimental rate of 14 fish/acre (Table 2). Large fingerlings were again stocked at the same rate in 2016. The normal, accepted stocking rate for large fingerling walleye is 5 fish/acre. Prior to 2014, most walleye stocking consisted of small fingerlings. The change in stocking strategy was a result of the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative. Under the initiative, WDNR increased production and distribution of large fingerling walleyes throughout the state.

Walleye have been stocked into Townsend Flowage on and off for 50 years with little measurable success. The increased stocking rate of large fingerling of 14 fish/acre in 2014 and 2016 produced no fall YOY in 2014 and no fall YOY in 2016. In October 2017, 11 walleyes between 8.5 and 12.3 inches were collected and likely from these 2 stocking events. Even though these fish were not aged at the time of this report, due to their size, the age/growth history from other local waters, and the lack of natural reproduction due to limited spawning habitat, it's safe to assume these are from the 2014 and 2016 stocking events. Although catch rates were low it is important to note that the walleye stocked in 2014 and 2016 wouldn't have fully recruited to the adult population during the 2017 Fall survey. It is recommended that the department closely monitor and evaluate the walleye stocking success in future surveys. If measurable success (catch per mile, survival, and growth) are not achieved it is recommended that walleye stocking be discontinued by the department. Townsend flowage is scheduled to be stocked with extended growth walleyes again in 2018.

Muskellunge have been stocked periodically since the 1960's in hopes of establishing a musky fishery. No muskellunge were stocked between 1977 and 2008. Muskellunge stocking was resumed in 2009 by WDNR at the rate of 1 fish/acre (400 fish annually) (Table 2). Prior to 2008, only 1 muskellunge has ever been captured in WDNR surveys. In 2016, six muskellunge were captured. A subsample of 3 fish were aged and ranged from 9 to 12 years old suggesting natural reproduction

occurred since stocking resumed in 2009. Townsend Flowage provides abundant habitat and forage to sustain an increase in large predators. The stocking rate of muskellunge should be increased to 2 fish/acre to further develop this fishery. Fish should also be marked/fin clipped to monitor natural reproduction and emigration from the flowage. The current stocking guidance would allow this to occur for 4 consecutive years before returning to a “maintenance” stocking of 1 fish/acre.

The next comprehensive survey for Townsend Flowage is scheduled for 2024 and will focus on the age, growth, abundance, and recruitment of the dominant gamefish and panfish. Additional effort should focus on evaluating the muskellunge stocking program, specifically the change in stocking rate if approved.

REFERENCES

- Anderson, R. O., and R. M. Neumann. 1996. Length, weight, and associated structural indices. Pages 447-482 in B. R. Murphy and D. W. Willis, editors. *Fisheries Techniques*, 2nd edition. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.
- Bister, T. J., D. W. Willis, M. L. Brown, S. M. Jordan, R. M. Neumann, M. C. Quist, and C. S. Guy. 2000. Proposed standard weight (Ws) equations and standard-length categories for 18 warmwater nongame and riverine fish species. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 20:570-574.
- Heizer, R. E. 1998. Fishery Evaluation Survey of Townsend Flowage. Wisconsin Department of Natural resources, Peshtigo office.
- Roost, B. 2006. An Aquatic Lake Management Plan for Townsend Flowage, Oconto County, Wisconsin. Wisconsin Lake and Pond Resource LLC, Berlin, Wisconsin.

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Current (2016-2017) fishing regulations for Townsend Flowage.

Species	Fishing Season	Daily Limit	Minimum Length
Largemouth Bass	May 7 - March 5	5	14 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 7 - June 19	Catch and release	
	May 7 - March 5	5 in total with LMB	14 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	3	18 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 - November 30	1	40 inches
Panfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, crappie, and yellow perch)	Open all year	25 in total	None
Rock Bass	Open all year	None	None
Bullheads	Open all year	None	None

Table 2. Stocking history of Townsend Flowage from 1973 to 2016.

Year	Species	Age Class	Number Stocked	Avg Fish Length (in)	Source Type
1972	WALLEYE	FINGERLING	14080	3	DNR COOP PONDS
1973	MUSKELLUNGE	FINGERLING	1800	11	DNR HATCHERY
1974	WALLEYE	FINGERLING	18000	3.67	DNR COOP PONDS
1975	MUSKELLUNGE	FINGERLING	640	11	DNR COOP PONDS
1976	WALLEYE	FINGERLING	34000	3	DNR COOP PONDS
1977	MUSKELLUNGE	FINGERLING	1200	9	DNR COOP PONDS
1994	WALLEYE	FINGERLING	450	6	PRIVATE HATCHERY
1998	WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	10000	1.2	DNR HATCHERY
2000	WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	10000	1.7	DNR HATCHERY
2003	WALLEYE	LARGE FINGERLING	1250	8.5	PRIVATE HATCHERY
2003	WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	10000	2.1	DNR PONDS
2005	WALLEYE	LARGE FINGERLING	4760	7.4	DNR HATCHERY
2008	WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	10044	1.4	DNR HATCHERY
2009	MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	200	10.5	DNR HATCHERY
2010	WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	10000	1.4	DNR HATCHERY
2011	MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	400	9.3	DNR HATCHERY
2012	MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	400	10.2	DNR HATCHERY
2012	WALLEYE	SMALL FINGERLING	10000	1.5	DNR HATCHERY
2013	MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	476	9.7	DNR HATCHERY
2014	WALLEYE	LARGE FINGERLING	6667	6.8	DNR HATCHERY
2014	MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	400	9.8	DNR HATCHERY
2015	MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	400	11.4	DNR HATCHERY
2016	WALLEYE	LARGE FINGERLING	6704	7.6	DNR HATCHERY
2016	MUSKELLUNGE	LARGE FINGERLING	399	10.88	DNR HATCHERY

Table 3. WDNR fisheries surveys completed on Townsend Flowage from 1958 to 2016.

Date	Survey type	Target species	Effort	Survey purpose
September 8-12, 1958	Netting	All fish	35 NN	Gamefish/panfish assesment
July 16, 1965	Electrofishing	All fish	7.0 mi.	Gamefish/panfish assesment
August, 1971	Electrofishing	All fish	NA	Gamefish/panfish assesment
September 13, 1984	Electrofishing	All fish	4.8 mi.	Gamefish/panfish assesment
April 29-May 2, 1997	Netting	All fish	60 NN	Gamefish/panfish assesment
June 18, 1997	Netting	All fish	4 NN	Gamefish/panfish assesment
October 15, 1997	Electrofishing	All fish	3.5 mi.	Gamefish/panfish assesment
May 31, 2006	Electrofishing	Walleye and Muskellunge	7.0 mi.	Juvenile assesment
May 6, 2008	Electrofishing	Walleye and Muskellunge	5.5 mi.	Walleye (SEI)
June 3, 2008	Electrofishing	All fish	4.0 mi.	Gamefish/panfish assesment (SEII)
October 15, 2008	Electrofishing	Gamefish	5.1 mi.	Gamefish assesment
September 8, 2014	Electrofishing	Walleye and Muskellunge	6.0 mi.	Juvenile assesment
September 29, 2015	Electrofishing	Walleye and Muskellunge	6.0 mi.	Juvenile assesment
April 19-23, 2016	Netting	All fish	50 NN	Gamefish/panfish assesment (SNI)
May 9, 2016	Electrofishing	Walleye and Muskellunge	6.0 mi.	Walleye recap (SEI)
May 24, 2016	Electrofishing	All fish	4.0 mi.	Gamefish/panfish assesment (SEII)
September 6, 2016	Electrofishing	Walleye and Muskellunge	6.0 mi.	Juvenile assesment

Table 4. Proposed length categories used to calculate Proportional stock density (PSD) and Relative stock density (RSD) for various fish species. Measurements are total lengths for each category in inches. Updated Anderson and Neumann (1996) and Bister et al. (2000).

Species	PSD	RSD-P	Stock	Quality	Preferred	Memorable	Trophy
Black crappie			5	8	10	12	15
Bluegill	20 - 40	5 - 20*	3	6	8	10	12
Brown bullhead			5	8	11	14	17
Largemouth bass	40 - 70	10 - 40*	8	12	15	20	25
Muskellunge	30 - 60		20	30	38	42	50
Northern pike	30 - 60		14	21	28	34	44
Pumpkinseed	20 - 40		3	6	8	10	12
Rock Bass	20 - 40		4	7	9	11	13
Smallmouth bass	30 - 60		7	11	14	17	20
Walleye	30 - 60		10	15	20	25	30
Yellow perch	30 - 50		5	8	10	12	15
Yellow bullhead			4	7	9	11	14

* Range based on management strategy fo balanced populations.

Table 5. Number, species composition (%), average length, PSD, RSDp, and length range of fish collected from all gears in 1997 and 2016 from Townsend Flowage.

1997 All gears combined

*Common Name of Fish	Number	Percent %	Average Length	PSD	RSDp	Length Range (inches)
Bluegill	327	27%	5.9	45.2	2.5	3.4 - 8.9
Northern Pike	326	27%	17.5	19.0	3.9	5.7 - 33.2
Black Crappie	173	14%	6.4	22.1	5.3	4.4 - 11.2
Yellow Perch	126	10%	6.4	5.7	0	4.2 - 9.3
Pumpkinseed	77	6%	5.4	25.8	1.5	3.5 - 9.0
Rockbass	72	6%	7.8	50.0	9.6	3.5 - 10.0
Largemouth Bass	65	5%	13.7	65.6	40.6	4.7 - 22.2
Bullhead sp.	48	4%	9.7	9.7		5.0 - 12.2
Walleye	4	<1%	14.3			13.2 - 14.7
White Sucker	1	<1%	20.4			20.4
Muskellunge	0	NA	NA			NA
Total	1219	100%				

2016 All gears combined

*Common Name of Fish	Number	Percent %	Average Length	PSD	RSDp	Length Range (inches)
Bluegill	798	33%	5.3	25.2	0.8	2.9 - 9.1
Northern Pike	123	5%	21.6	55.3	3.3	14.2 - 30.2
Black Crappie	143	6%	7.4	36.3	11.8	4.6 - 13.0
Yellow Perch	306	13%	5.8	1.9	0	3.3 - 9.8
Pumpkinseed	237	10%	5.5	35.2	0	3.4 - 7.9
Rockbass	120	5%	7.1	59.1	4.5	3.5 - 9.6
Largemouth Bass	120	5%	12.9	66.1	23.7	7.5 - 19.0
Bullhead sp.	547	23%	10.0	10.0		7.2 - 12.7
Walleye	10	<1%	21.4			9.0 - 24.6
White Sucker	1	<1%	NA			NA
Muskellunge	6	<1%	21.0			16.9 - 38.1
Total	2,411	100%				

* Common names of fishes recognized by the American Fisheries Society.

Table 6. Number, species composition (%), average length, PSD, RSDp, and length range of fish collected from spring electrofishing (SE II) in 2008 and 2016 from Townsend Flowage.

2008 Spring Electrofishing II

*Common Name of Fish	Number	Percent %	Average Length	PSD	RSDp	Length Range (inches)
Bluegill	331	58%	4.3	5.6	0	2.7 - 7.6
Northern Pike	3	1%	22.8	100	0	22.1 - 24.2
Black Crappie	8	1%	5.7	25.0	0	4.7 - 8.7
Yellow Perch	9	2%	4.5	0	0	3.7 - 6.1
Pumpkinseed	84	15%	5.7	40.5	0	3.2 - 7.7
Rockbass	42	7%	6.6	66.7	2.8	2.9 - 9.3
Largemouth Bass	71	12%	14.3	87.3	33.8	8.0 - 19.4
Bullhead sp.	21	4%	9.2			7.6 - 11.1
Walleye	4	1%				12.6 - 18.8
White Sucker	1	<1%				NA
Muskellunge	1	<1%				12.5
Total	575	100%				

2016 Spring Electrofishing II

*Common Name of Fish	Number	Percent %	Average Length	PSD	RSDp	Length Range (inches)
Bluegill	345	53%	4.8	14.5	0	2.9 - 7.9
Northern Pike	3	<1%	18.2	33.3	0	14.2 - 30.2
Black Crappie	4	1%	8.4	25.0	25.0	6.6 - 10.7
Yellow Perch	10	2%	4.8	0	0	3.7 - 6.8
Pumpkinseed	128	20%	5.4	30.2	0	3.4 - 7.9
Rockbass	32	5%	6.5	28.6	0	5.1 - 8.4
Largemouth Bass	99	15%	12.5	59.8	17.5	7.5 - 18.3
Bullhead sp.	26	4%	NA			7.2 - 12.7
Walleye	1	<1%				9.0 - 24.6
White Sucker	0	NA				NA
Muskellunge	1	<1%				16.9 - 38.1
Total	649	100%				

* Common names of fishes recognized by the American Fisheries Society.

Table 7. Number, species composition (%), average length, PSD, RSDp, and length range of fish collected from spring fyke netting (SN I) in 1997 and 2016 from Townsend Flowage.

1997 Fyke Netting

*Common Name of Fish	Number	Percent %	Average Length	PSD	RSDp	Length Range (inches)
Bluegill	182	22%	5.9	51.6	3.3	3.4 - 8.9
Northern Pike	282	35%	17.5	18.8	4.2	6.5 - 33.3
Black Crappie	95	12%	6.1	19.4	8.1	4.4 - 11.2
Yellow Perch	119	15%	6.4	5.7	0	4.2 - 9.3
Pumpkinseed	23	3%	5.2	33.3	0	3.4 - 7.4
Rockbass	48	6%	7.0	47.6	14.2	3.5 - 9.8
Largemouth Bass	29	4%	14.1	78.6	57.1	4.9 - 18.1
Bullhead sp.	30	4%	10.1			5.0 - 12.2
Walleye	4	<1%				13.2 - 14.7
White Sucker	1	<1%				20.4
Muskellunge	0	NA				NA
Total	813	100%				

2016 Fyke Netting

*Common Name of Fish	Number	Percent %	Average Length	PSD	RSDp	Length Range (inches)
Bluegill	453	26%	5.5	29.1	1.1	3.6 - 9.1
Northern Pike	120	7%	21.7	55.8	3.3	14.6 - 30.2
Black Crappie	139	8%	7.4	36.4	11.1	4.6 - 13.0
Yellow Perch	296	17%	5.8	1.9	0	4.4 - 9.8
Pumpkinseed	114	6%	5.4	39.2	0	3.4 - 7.9
Rockbass	88	5%	7.5	67.0	5.8	3.5 - 9.6
Largemouth Bass	21	1%	14.9	95.2	52.4	11.1 - 19.0
Bullhead sp.	521	30%	10.0			7.2 - 12.7
Walleye	9	1%				9.0 - 24.6
White Sucker	1	<1%				NA
Muskellunge	3	<1%				16.9 - 38.1
Total	1,765	100%				

* Common names of fishes recognized by the American Fisheries Society.

Table 8. Summary for 1997 spring netting (60 net nights) and fall electrofishing on Townsend Flowage.

Species	1997 Spring Netting		1997 Fall Electrofishing		
	Fish Count	CPUE/NN	Fish Count	CPUE/hr	CPUE/mile
Bluegill	182	3.0	78	43.3	22.9
Northern Pike	282	4.7	42	23.3	12.4
Black Crappie	95	1.6	43	23.9	12.6
Yellow Perch	119	2.0	6	3.3	1.8
Pumpkinseed	23	0.4	0	0	0
Rockbass	48	0.8	9	5.0	2.6
Largemouth Bass	29	0.5	36	20.0	10.6
Bullhead sp.	30	0.5	1	0.6	0.3
Walleye	4	0.1	0	0	0
White Sucker	1	0.02	0	0	0
Muskellunge	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9. Electrofishing summary for 2008 at Townsend Flowage.

Species	2008 Spring SEI			2008 Spring SEII			2008 Fall recruitment		
	Fish Count	CPUE/hr	CPUE/mi.	Fish Count	CPUE/hr	CPUE/mi.	Fish Count	CPUE/hr	CPUE/mi.
Bluegill				331	584.1	331.0			
Northern Pike				3	1.3	0.8	34	11.5	6.7
Black Crappie				8	14.1	8.0			
Yellow Perch				9	15.9	9.0			
Pumpkinseed				84	148.2	84.0			
Rockbass				42	74.1	42.0			
Largemouth Bass				71	30.2	17.8	56	19.0	11.0
Bullhead sp.				21	37.1	21.0			
Walleye	5	1.8	0.9	4	1.7	1.0	1	0.3	0.2
White Sucker				1	1.8	1.0			
Muskellunge				1	0.4	0.3	0	0	0

Table 10. Summary of spring netting (50 net nights) and spring and fall electrofishing on Townsend Flowage.

Species	2016 Spring Netting		2016 Spring SEII			2016 Fall Recruitment		
	Fish Count	CPUE/NN	Fish Count	CPUE/hr	CPUE/mi.	Fish Count	CPUE/hr	CPUE/mi.
Bluegill	453	9.1	345	591.4	345.0			
Northern Pike	120	2.4	3	1.5	0.8			
Black Crappie	139	2.8	4	6.9	4.0			
Yellow Perch	296	5.9	10	17.1	10.0			
Pumpkinseed	114	2.3	128	219.4	128.0			
Rockbass	88	1.8	32	54.9	32.0			
Largemouth Bass	21	0.4	99	48.7	24.8			
Bullhead sp.	521	10.4	26	44.6	26.0			
Walleye	9	0.2	1	0.5	0.3	0	0	0
White Sucker	1	0.02	0	0	0			
Muskellunge	3	0.1	1	0.5	0.3	2	0.8	0.3

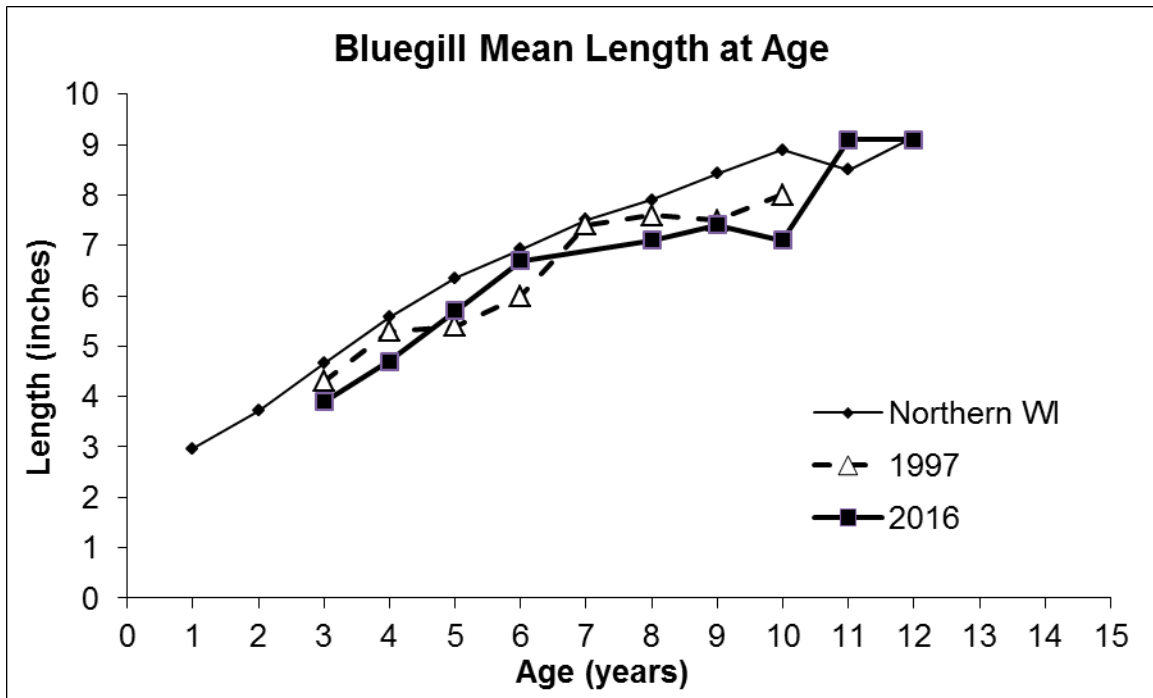


Figure 1. Bluegill mean length at age comparison between northern Wisconsin average, 1997 and 2016 from Townsend Flowage.

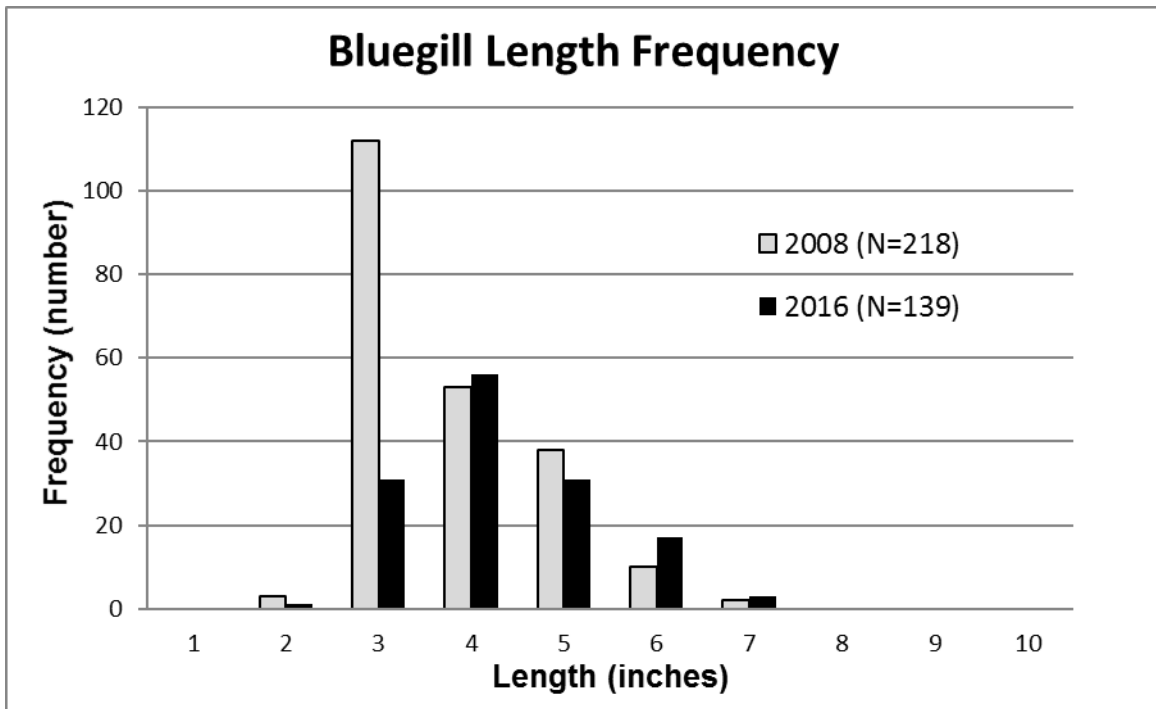


Figure 2. Bluegill length frequency comparison between 2008 and 2016 spring electrofishing from Townsend Flowage.

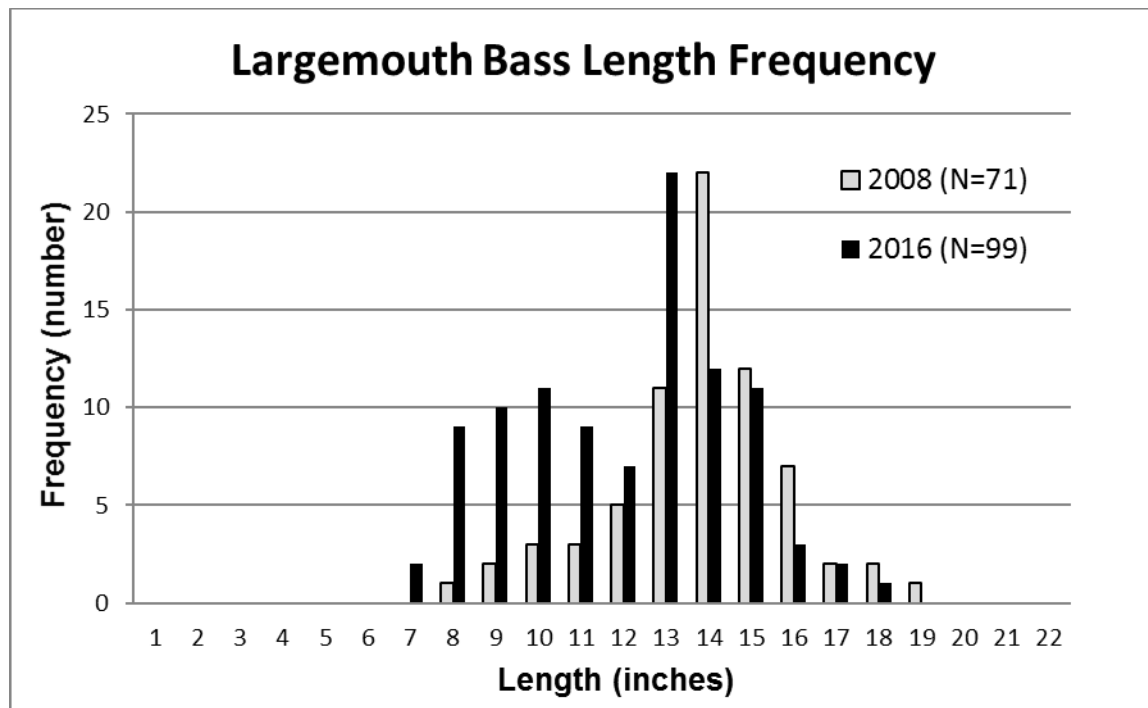


Figure 3. Largemouth bass length frequency comparison between 2008 and 2016 spring electrofishing from Townsend Flowage.

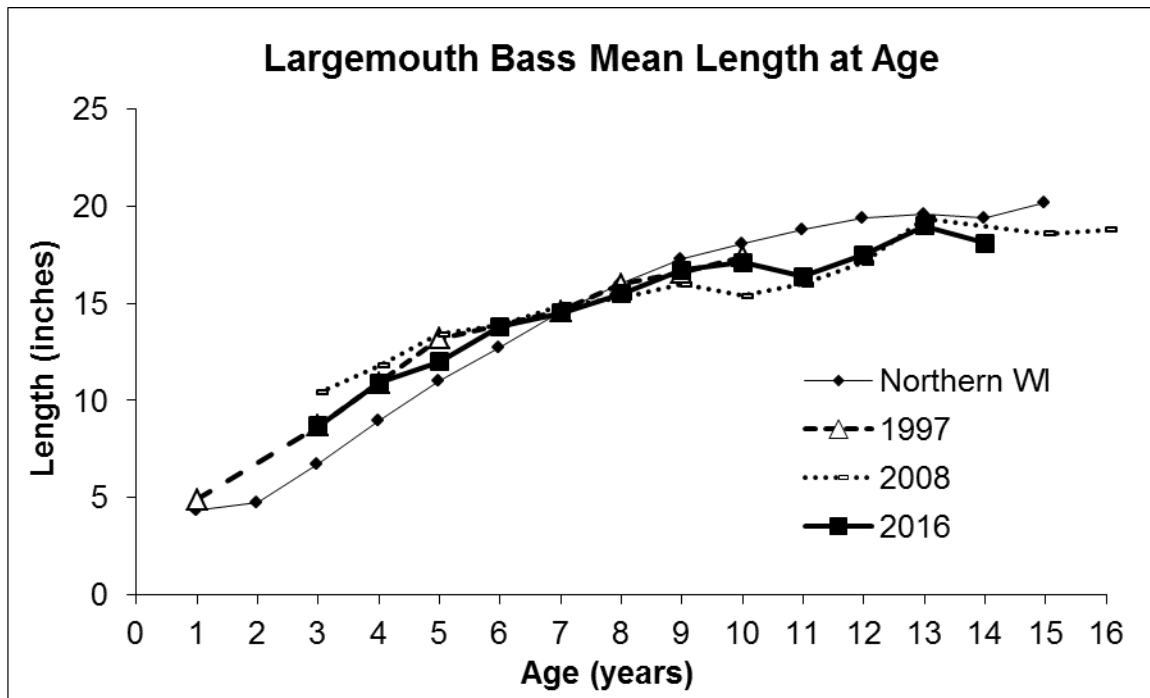


Figure 4. Largemouth bass mean length at age comparison between northern Wisconsin averages, 1997, 2008, and 2016 from Townsend Flowage

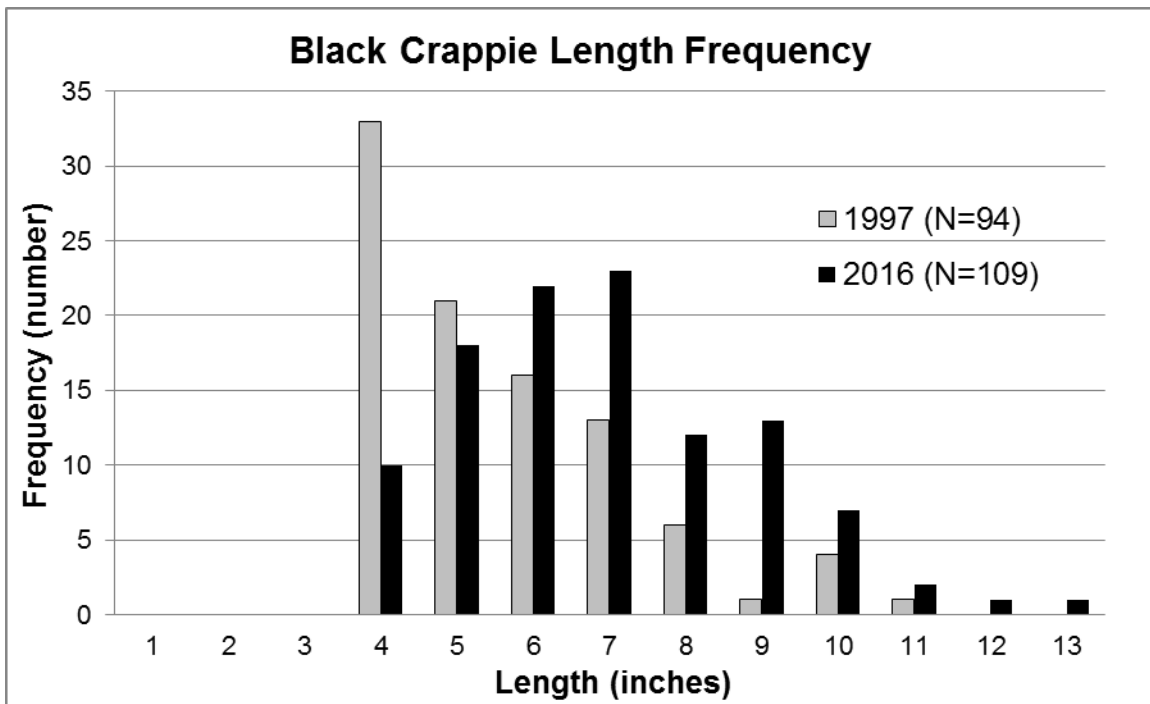


Figure 5. Black Crappie length frequency comparison between 1997 and 2016 fyke netting from Townsend Flowage.

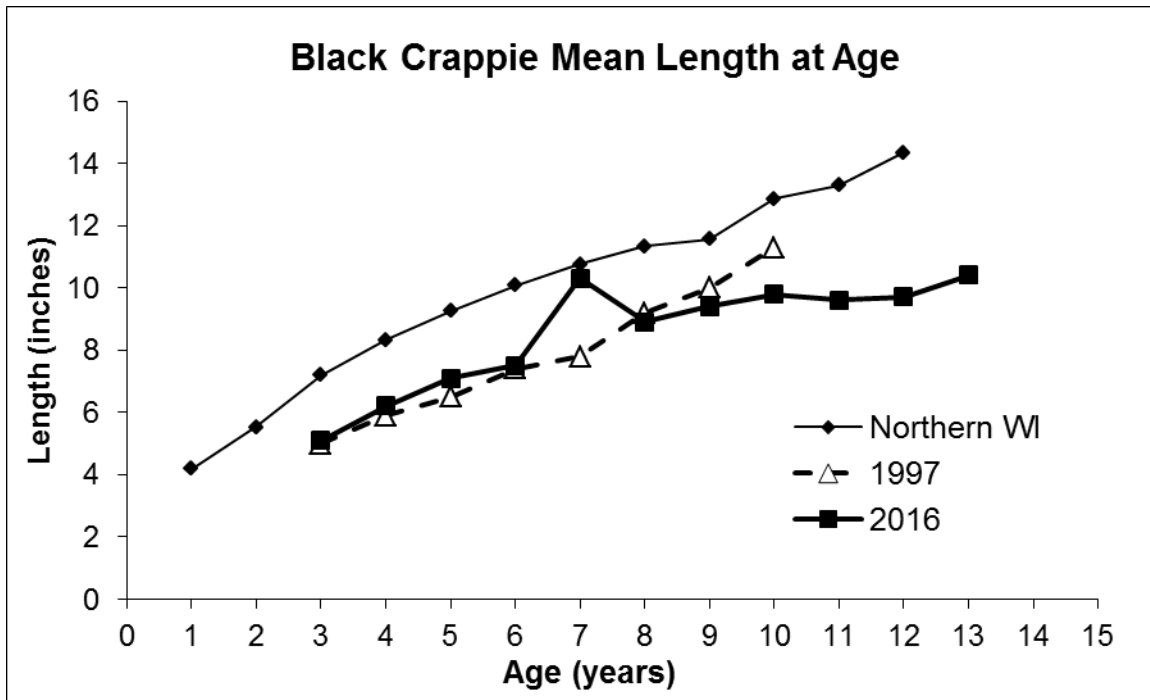


Figure 6. Black Crappie mean length at age comparison between northern Wisconsin averages, 1997, and 2016 from Townsend Flowage.

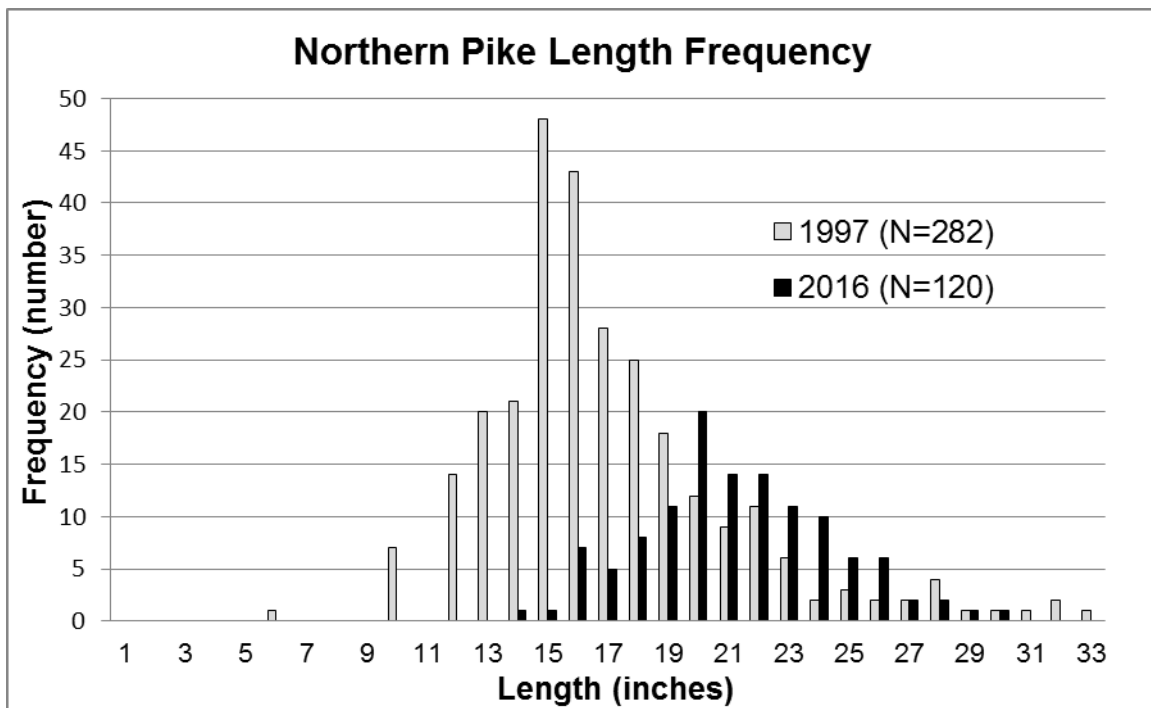


Figure 7. Northern pike length frequency comparison between 1997 and 2016 fyke netting from Townsend Flowage.

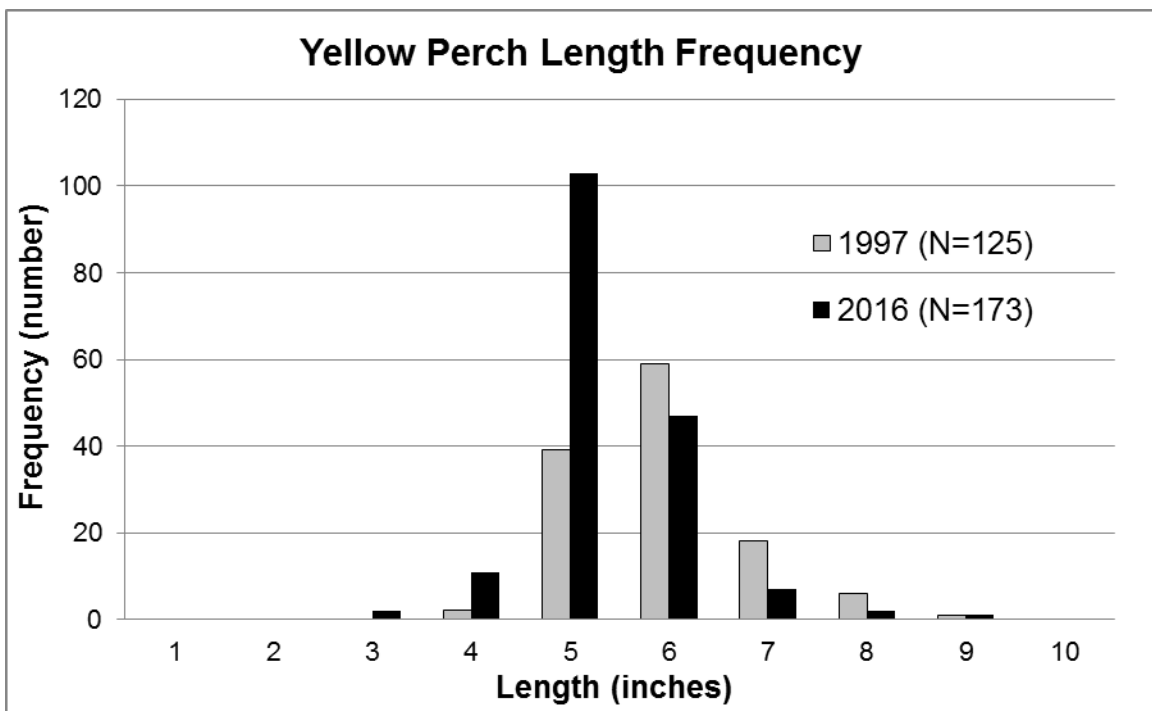


Figure 8. Yellow perch length frequency comparisons between 1997 and 2016 from Townsend Flowage.

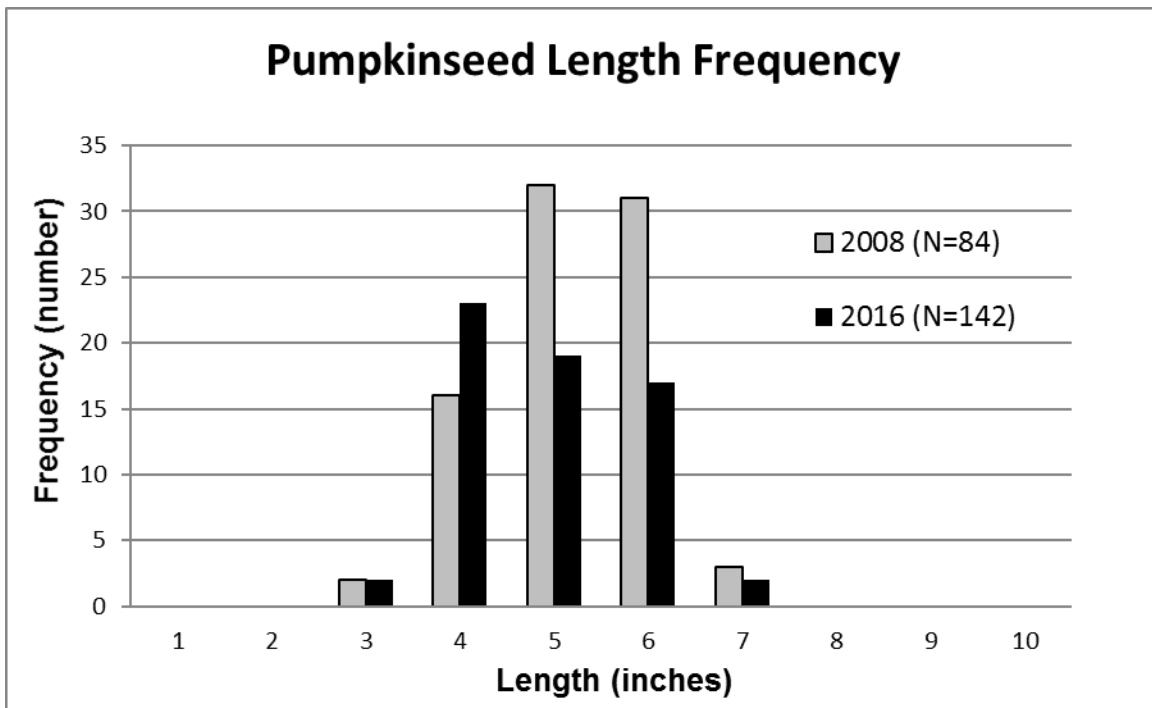


Figure 9. Pumpkinseed length frequency comparisons between 2008 and 2016 spring electrofishing from Townsend Flowage

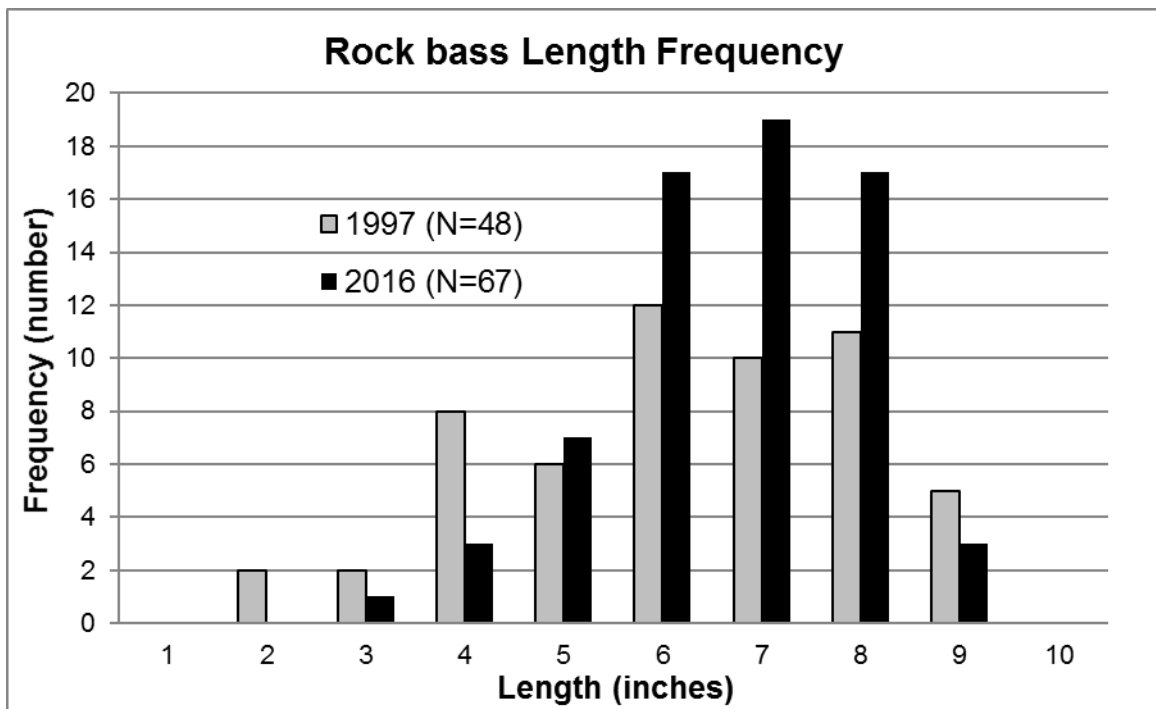


Figure 10. Rock bass length frequency comparisons between 1997 and 2016 fyke netting from Townsend Flowage.

Figure 11. Fyke net locations and public boat launches during the 2016 comprehensive survey of Townsend Flowage.

